



# ST. PIUS X PARISH

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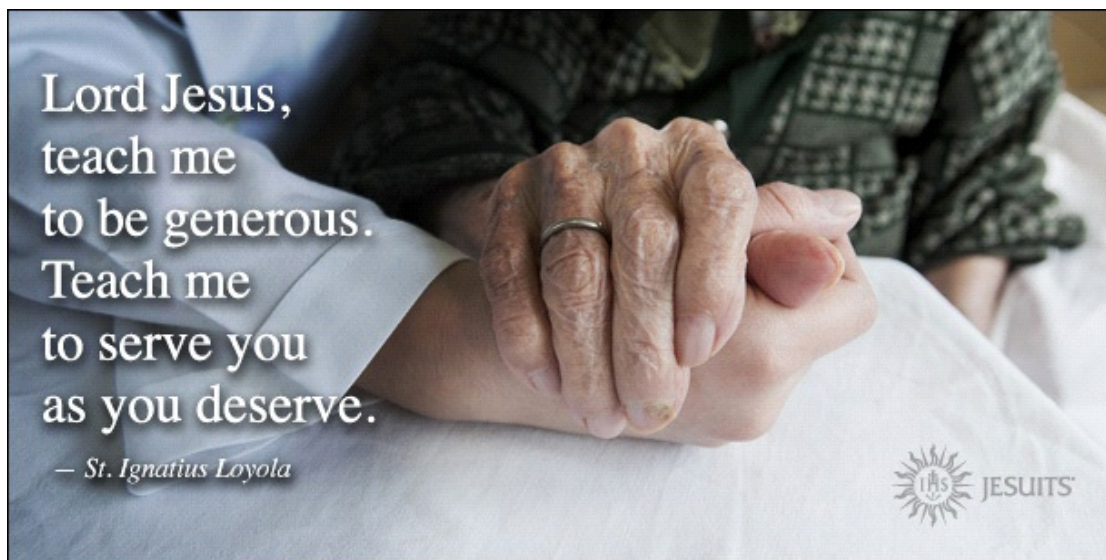


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OUR PIUS UPDATE  
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Lord Jesus,  
teach me  
to be generous.  
Teach me  
to serve you  
as you deserve.

— St. Ignatius Loyola



## ASKING JESUS FOR WHAT WE NEED



In the Gospel, Jesus asks the blind beggar what he needs. The beggar asks for sight. In today's very noisy world, we often need help, insight, into knowing our real needs. **St. Ignatius** urges us to converse with Jesus, as our friend, speaking with our hearts open and soft. These heartfelt colloquies help us to recognize our real needs and desires. Heartfelt prayer, as a loving dialogue, also requires us to listen in silence. Silent listening allows our hearts, and our minds, to recognize whisperings of the Holy Spirit. These divine whisperings help us acknowledge both our authentic needs, and God's will for our lives. Aligning our wills with God's will, we are enabled to follow Jesus more closely as our friend.

Today, take some time to imagine Jesus standing in front of you saying, "What do you want me to do for you?" What would you ask for?

*-Russ Long is a parishioner and participant in the **After the Spiritual Exercises program** at St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte, NC, the Jesuit parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.*

### PRAYER

*Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,  
Teach me true generosity.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.  
To give without counting the cost.  
To fight heedless of wounds,  
To labor without seeking rest,  
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward  
Save the knowledge that I have done your will.*

**Amen**

**- St. Ignatius of Loyola**

**SOURCE:** [www.jesuitprayer.org](http://www.jesuitprayer.org)

## SIX WAYS TO LET CHILDREN LEAD US IN FINDING GOD

As adults, we're quite accomplished at making things complicated. *Prayer*, for example. Or, *finding God in all things*. We can turn a simple concept of paying attention into a theological puzzle, can't we?

Fortunately, God designed humans to start out small and grow up gradually. So the world is never populated only by adults. We have children to balance our adult-ness, which is a great blessing.

Do you want to find God in all things this week? Then hang out with a child. And follow the lead of this little person.

1. **Live in the moment.**

Children have a natural ability to live right now without obsessing over what comes next. Although, unfortunately, we train them at an early age to become anxious, most children whose basic needs are met and who live in safe environments will revert to their true nature of enjoying the moment without the burden of worrying about what comes after it. Living in the moment is a basic practice for encountering God.

2. **Indulge in wonder.**

Have you ever been around kids when they first encounter a polar bear through the glass of the underground zoo-aquarium? Or when they learn how to ride a bike? Or when they see something they've never seen before? Their eyes widen, their jaws drop, and they make all sorts of wonder sounds. When was the last time you allowed yourself to be amazed, to stand in awe of anything? Wonder is the art of receiving beauty and knowledge that's much bigger than any person. When we allow ourselves to wonder, we will find God at the heart of the experience.

3. **Ask Big Questions.**

Children aren't afraid to keep asking *Why?*: Why are there galaxies? Why do turtles do that? Why do I have to do these boring exercises on the piano or clarinet? They ask because they want to know, and they trust that there's an answer hiding somewhere. We adults become cynical and live sometimes as if there are no answers—that everything is complicated and hopeless, so why ask questions? What will that change? Yet, the psalmists and prophets kept asking God *Why?* when the world was broken, when people were in need, or when they didn't understand how to deal with life. Be brave like a child, and ask the questions that are important to you.

4. **Try, Even Though It's Risky.**

To children, every day is an experiment—trying to build things out of sticks and stones; trying to get to the next level on a video game; trying to dance or sing like the entertainers they admire. If they are given permission by the adults in their lives, kids

try without fear of failure or ridicule. I believe that God wants us to try living as people without fear of failure, of what others think, or of wasting time.

5. **Rest When You're Tired.**

I love how children will run at full speed and then stop and collapse and sleep the sleep of unhurried angels. Although we adults can't (usually) simply take a nap when needed, we probably could unplug from life earlier each day or more frequently and allow healthy rest to restore and reset us. This also allows the Holy Spirit to work within our spirits through dreams and the other unconscious work of the mind.

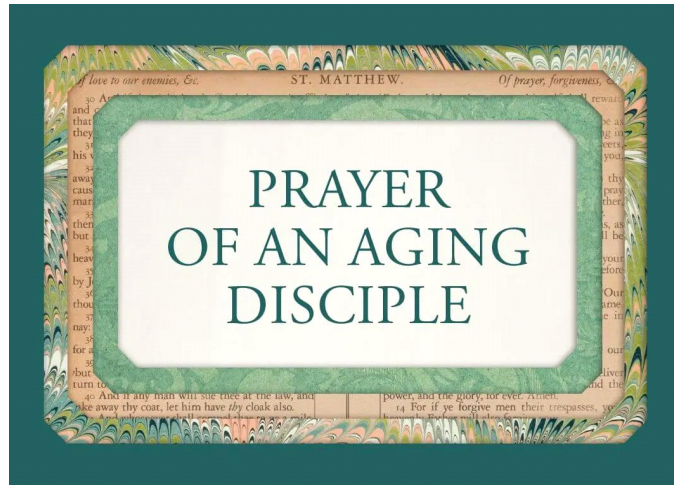
6. **Accept the way you feel.**

Children who grow up in loving, safe households are allowed to feel the emotion that wells up moment by moment. They are also taught how to identify their emotions and work with them in healthy ways. How many of us adults continue to avoid facing our anger or sadness? How adept have we become at pushing our true emotions down and out of the way? Yet, these very emotions could guide us into authentic conversation with God, who desires to meet us in the moment, however we feel. Working prayerfully with our emotions is one of the most dramatically effective ways to find God in life as it is.

Today, thank God for any children in your life. And try to spend some time with them and let them guide you to the Father.

**SOURCE:** By Vinita Hampton Wright, [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)





*Lord, grant me the grace  
to live in the present and recognize what is possible  
to look to the future and trust you  
to be silent, and hear your voice in the stillness  
to do what you ask without arguing  
to humbly adapt to radical change  
to serve, and to graciously accept being served  
to give generously  
to be ever grateful for all your generous gifts  
to use all my gifts in whatever form of service you ask of me  
to rejoice in all the graces you have given me  
to forgive and ask forgiveness  
to be sorry for all the times I have not responded to your call  
to live in a way that bears witness to you  
to have courage in times of trial  
to let go of all that keeps me from drawing ever closer to you  
to look forward to the future with hope  
and to be ever surprised as you make all things new.  
**Amen.***

**SOURCE:** Excerpted from *Answering God's Call* by Barbara Lee,  
[www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

## CAN'T CONNECT WITH THE SAINTS?

*"...all the holy ones send you their greetings." Philippians 4:22*



Last week we celebrated the feast of **All Saints**. It is one of the greatest feasts in the Church's liturgical year on which we celebrate, well, all the saints. What a joyful day!

But perhaps you have never really been able to connect with the saints. You believe in them and entrust intentions to their intercession, but you've never really made friends with any of them.

You are not alone! Many people struggle to find Saint-friends. I propose, however, that if you keep searching, you will find your heavenly circle.

If you want to connect with the saints in a deeper way:

### **Start With Who You Have**

Are you named after a Saint? Who is your Confirmation Saint? Does your family-of-origin have a devotion to a Saint? Who is the patron of your parish? A great place to begin is with those Saints who are already praying for you in these types of capacities.

### **Consider Your Story**

One of the biggest ways we can connect with the Saints is through similar threads in our stories. Look back on your life, your journey of prayer, and your relationship with Jesus. Can you see any similarities between your own life and the life of a Saint? Even a Google search might be helpful here. You never know who might have a similar lived experience as you!

### **Think of Your Needs**

Is there a patron for your particular needs, desires, or intentions? Lean into their intercession and you may find that a beautiful friendship develops in your need.

### **Ask Them to Find You**

Finally, ask the Lord to send you a saintly friend. Ask Him who you need to get to know. Ask the Saints to find you. Then, be on the lookout!

**SOURCE:** Olivia , [www.blessedishe.com](http://www.blessedishe.com)